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ABSTRACT

This 22 minute video examines how administrators, teachers, and students in the Val Verde school district near Riverside, California, have connected all of the 12 schools to each other and the resources of the Internet. The purpose of the video is to demonstrate the advantages of improving school use of computer technology and to show how people in some schools are taking advantage of the educational potential of the Internet. Highlights include students talking by computer to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) "space-link"; watching three-dimensional models change on the screen as they experiment by altering mathematical formulas; electronically enhancing their school newspaper with photographs obtained from outside sources; and students creating reports for history class by accessing books and pictures from university libraries around the world. The video also features comments by George Lucas (creator of the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" series of motion pictures), a strong advocate of advanced technology in schools. Also included are findings of a recently released study by Ronald Anderson at the University of Minnesota which found that, compared with other industrialized countries, American schools contain outmoded and underutilized computer equipment and that a strong computer program in schools can be of significant value in raising test scores and in equalizing performance among minorities. (JLB)

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